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SKELMERSDALE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# Annual Reports

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health*

AND

*Inspector of Nuisances*

FOR

THE YEAR 1925.



V. O'REILLY, M.B., B.C.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

E. HUNTINGTON,

Inspector of Nuisances.



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# SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1925.

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*Chairman* :—EDWARD DRAPER, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman* :—EDWIN WILLIAMS.

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JOHN A. ATHERTON.

CHARLES CHITSON.

THOS EDWARDS, J.P.

RICHARD FORSHAW.

JAMES HODSON.

JOSEPH HORROCKS.

DENNIS McCARTHY.

STANLEY MARSH.

JOHN PLATT, J.P.

DANIEL SNAPE.

ROBERT G. TASKER.

JAMES TOOTLE.

LAWRENCE TOOTLE.

*Medical Officer of Health* :—  
VINCENT O'REILLY, M.B., B.C.H.

*Inspector of Nuisances* :—  
E. HUNTINGTON



# ANNUAL REPORT.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Skelmersdale Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1925.

## POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the year was 7,072. At the 1920 Census it was 6,678.

## BIRTH RATE.

The number of Births registered during the year was 124 (58 males and 66 females), which gives an Annual Birth Rate of 17·5 per 1,000 of the population. This is 1·3 more than that for the previous year, and 4·7 below the average of the preceding five years.

## DEATH RATE.

Seventy-five deaths were registered for the year (51 males and 24 females), which gives an Annual Death Rate of 10·6. This is 1·4 more than that for the previous year and 0·7 below the average of the preceding five years.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were seven deaths of children under one year of age (5 males and 2 females), giving a rate per 1,000 births of 56, which is 4 more than that for the previous year and 29 below the average of the previous five years.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The Annual Death Rate from phthisis was 0·14, which is 0·42 below that for the preceding year and 0·55 below the average for the preceding five years.

Four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and five cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

The notifications were promptly sent in, the houses visited and all means taken for disinfection and isolation.

After notifying the County Authority, the cases are regularly visited by the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer and staff, who recommend all suitable cases for Sanatorium treatment.

## INFLUENZA, &c.

Several cases of influenza occurred in the early months of the year. The cases were of a milder type than usual, and no deaths were registered from this cause. Five deaths were registered from bronchitis and three from pneumonia, as compared with six from bronchitis and four from pneumonia in the previous year.

## SCARLATINA.

Only two cases of scarlatina occurred during the year, as compared with six for 1924 and sixteen for 1923. Both cases were of a mild type.

## MEASLES.

There was a severe epidemic of measles in February and March.

Many of the cases were attended with severe bronchial complications and four of the cases ended fatally.

## DIPHTHERIA.

Five cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, one of which ended fatally. In all the cases the sanitary conditions of the premises were satisfactory. They were all isolated cases.

## ISOLATION AND DISINFECTION.

When a notification is received the house in which the case occurs is visited and an endeavour made to discover the source of infection. Instructions are given to the occupiers as regards precautions to be taken to prevent spread of infection and disinfectants are supplied. At the termination of cases or on their removal to hospital, the Sanitary Staff visit the house and thoroughly disinfect the premises according to the instructions.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The district covers 1,942 acres and is of a gently undulating character, allowing as a rule for fair natural drainage. The population consists largely of miners, but within the last few years there has been a boot factory and rope works started which, with the weaving factory, give in all employment to about five hundred girls.

The houses are generally of the one type, a three or four roomed cottage with two stories.

The majority of the houses are furnished with privy middens.

## SCHOOLS.

All the schools are well supplied with sanitary conveniences and are visited and disinfected regularly. In all cases of epidemic the children of infected families are excluded when it is considered advisable, and the schools visited for suspicious cases. Every care is taken by the School Attendance Officer and School Teachers to exclude all suspicious cases, and to inform me of them.

The Medical Inspection of the children is undertaken by the County Authority.

## FOOD.

The milk supply in the district is satisfactory and the arrangements for distribution and supply are adequate. The cowsheds, dairies and milk shops have been regularly inspected and all utensils pertaining to the supply of milk were found thoroughly clean. The slaughter houses in the district have been frequently inspected and have been found in a satisfactory state. The registered bake-houses in the district have been inspected from time to time and all found clean and well kept.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The factories and workshops have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

## SEWERS.

With the exception of a small number of outlying houses the district is drained into the two sewage farms (one situated at Penny Street and the other at Berry Street), where the sewerage is treated by detritus tank and land irrigation. Both sewage farms drain into the River Tawd, which runs through the district.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is obtained from an Artesian well situated at Scarth Hill, in the adjoining parish of Lathom. The water is of good quality, free from contamination and has little, if any, plumbo solvent action.

## HOUSING.

During the past five years there have been no new houses built by the Council and there is still overcrowding. During that time, however, one of the two collieries in the district has been closed and as it gave work to over 500 men, many of the residents have had to look for work at some distance from their homes.



The other mine has deteriorated very much and its life is very uncertain. The adjoining mines, outside the district, have had their best seams worked out. As a result, it is anticipated that when houses are more available elsewhere there will be many families moving away from the place.

The Council have been very earnest in their endeavours during the past five years to see that all owners of defective property should keep their houses in a habitable state, with the result that there has been considerable improvement in this respect in nearly all the district, and the Council are now putting pressure on the remaining owners to render their houses habitable.

Yours obediently,

VINCENT O'REILLY.



COUNTY OF LANCASTER.  
URBAN DISTRICT OF SKELMERSDALE.

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Particulars to be included in the  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health,**  
FOR THE YEAR 1925.

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1.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.  
Area in acres—1,942.

Population (Census, 1921)—6,830. Estimated, 1925—7,072.

Physical features and general character of the area—The district is of a gently undulating character, allowing as a rule for fair natural drainage. The River Tawd runs through it.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921)—1,346.

Number of families of separate occupiers (Census 1921)—1,346.

Rateable value, £17,972.

Sum represented by a penny rate,—£60.

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants—The population consists chiefly of miners, the only other industries being weaving factory, rope factory and shoe factory, which give occupation in all to about 500 girls.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health—None noticeable.

# VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1925	124	58	66
Deaths in 1925	75	51	24

				Rates per 1,000 of Population :			
				Birth Rate	Death Rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1000 births.
Mean of 10 years—1915—							
1924	..	..	..	23·8	13·6	0·74	103
1924	..	..	..	16·2	9·2	0·56	52
1925	..	..	..	17·5	10·6	0·14	56
<i>Increase or Decrease in 1925 on—</i>							
<i>Ten Years' Average</i>				—6·3	—3·0	—0·60	—47
<i>Previous Year</i>				+1·3	+1·4	—0·042	+4
Mean of 5 years—							
1895–1899	..	..		33·4	18·2	0·74	173
1900–1904	..	..		36·3	20·3	0·94	162
1905–1909	..	..		33·9	17·3	0·42	167
1910–1914	..	..		30·3	16·4	0·65	155
1915–1919	..	..		25·4	16·0	0·80	122
1920–1924	..	..		22·2	11·3	0·69	85
Year—							
1924	..	..	..	16·2	9·2	0·56	52
1925	..	..	..	17·5	10·6	0·14	56
<i>Increase or decrease in 1925 on—</i>							
<i>Mean of 5 years, 1920—</i>							
1924	..	..	..	—4·7	—0·7	—0·55	—29
<i>Previous year</i>				+1·3	+1·4	—0·42	+4

The amount of Poor Law relief ; the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised—  
The Wigan Infirmary, to which miners contribute, is very freely used for fractures and other serious cases ; also Liverpool Infirmary and Cottage Hospital, Ormskirk, P.L. relief (£2,645 4s. 3d.).

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review ; and any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.—  
There was a severe epidemic of measles in February and March, and several cases of influenza in March and April.

Causes of Death					M.	F.
All Causes	..	..	..	..	51	24
Measles	..	..	..	..	2	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..			..	1	—
Other tuberculous diseases	..		..	..	1	—
Cancer, malignant disease	..		..	..	5	5
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	1	—
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	..		..	..	9	6
Heart disease	..	..	..	..	2	3
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	4	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	..		..	..	3	—
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	..			..	2	—
Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	..	..	1	—
Acute and chronic nephritis	..		..	..	3	—
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	..	..	..	..	3	1
Suicide	..	..	..	..	1	—
Other deaths from violence	..		..	..	3	—
Other defined diseases	..		..	..	8	5
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..			..	2	..
Deaths of infants	Total	..	..	..	5	2
under 1 year	Illegitimate	..		..	—	—
TOTAL BIRTHS	..	..	..	..	58	66
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	57	63
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	3
POPULATION	..	..	..	..		7,072

## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital accommodation provided or available—

For Smallpox—Nil. Where situate—Nil.

For other Infectious Diseases—Cottage Hospital.

Where situate—Moss Lane, Skelmersdale.

† Joint or otherwise—Otherwise, also an agreement with West Lancashire R.D.C. ; Scarletina 30 /-, Enteric 35/- weekly.

\* If you have the Joint use of Isolation Hospital belonging to some other Authority state nature of agreement or arrangement. Is any Retaining Fee paid? No.

Number of beds available *for your District*—For Smallpox 0 ; for other Infectious Diseases 30.

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the district for—

(a) Tuberculosis, No. (b) Maternity Cases, No.

(c) Children, No.

Give postal address of Union Infirmary and any other Public Institution in District—None.



<p>Have any of the following been provided in your district :—</p> <p>Institutional provision for unmarried mothers illegitimate infants, and homeless children.</p> <p>Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.</p> <p>Give days and time open.</p> <p>Day Nursery.</p> <p>School Clinic.</p> <p>Tuberculosis Dispensary.</p> <p>Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre.</p>	<p>Give name, situation, nature of accommodation, and by whom provided.</p> <p>Nil.</p> <p>Arranged through County.</p> <p>Congregational School, Skelmersdale.</p> <p>Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>No.</p>
<p>Ambulance facilities :—</p> <p>(a) For Infectious Cases.</p> <p>(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.</p>	<p>Horse Ambulance.</p> <p>Motor Ambulance.</p>

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—Vincent O'Reilly.

Salary (including Bonus) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1925,  
£79 17s. 6d.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part time.

Any other public appointments held by him—None.

Sanitary Inspector—Edward Huntington.

Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector at 31/12/1925,  
£66 7s. 6d.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part-time.

If not, what other appointments does he hold?—Gas  
Manager and Surveyor.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector (s)—Nil.

Salary (including Bonus) at 31/12/1925—Nil.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Nil.

Any Specialized Inspector (s) (e.g., Food Inspector)?—Nil.

Salary (including Bonus) at 31/12/1925—

Is he a whole or part-time Officer—

Any other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses; if any, give names, salaries, diplomas or certificates or qualifications, and any other public offices held by them—Nil.

Professional Nursing in the Home. Nature of arrangements in the district for— <input type="checkbox"/> (a) General Nursing. <input type="checkbox"/> (b) For Infectious Diseases, <i>e.g.</i> , Measles, &c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By whom provided— If not by Local Authority state financial arrangements and scheme of co-ordination.	Nil. Nil. Nil.
Is there a District Nursing Association in the District ? If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work ? If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work ? Does the Association undertake (a)* Midwifery cases ? (b) Monthly nursing ? *Attendance at confinement without a Medical Practitioner.	Yes. How many District Nurses employed ? One.  No.  No.  No. No.
Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for infants ?	Yes. Arranged through County.
Midwives.—Is any midwife employed by or assisted by the <i>Local Authority</i> ? Number of midwives on the County Council Register, 31/12/1925. Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the midwifery service ?	No.  No. on Register—Four. No. actually practising—Four.  Sufficiency.
Legislation in force— Specify any— Local Acts. Local Orders. General Adoptive Acts.  Bye-laws relating to public health. Observations as to their administration.	Nil. Nil. “The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ” ? Adopted in 1914 “The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.” “The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 ” ? Partly. New Streets and Buildings, Nuisances, and Slaughter-houses.  Satisfactory.
Particulars as to co-operation with— The medical and ancillary services of the National Health Insurance. The Voluntary Hospitals. The Poor Law or other agencies.	None. None. None.

### 3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply— Source and quality Constant or intermittent. Approx. No. of dwellinghouses— supplied. Possibilities of contamination? Any liability to plumbo-solvent action. Any insufficiency, and where. Nature of extensions (if any) during the year.	From Artesian Well. Quality good. Constant.  Direct—1346. By stand pipe—Nil. Nil, No.  No.  None.												
Rivers and Streams— Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams. Sources and nature.	None.												
Sewage Disposal Works. Method of treatment? What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during the year? Areas, or Townships, without proper Drainage System? Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.?	Detritus tank and land irrigation.  Water-carriage in earthenware pipes. No development.  Small portion of District.  Drains tested and flushed.												
Closet Accommodation at end of 1925.	Privy Middens—No. of Middens? 661. No. of Closets attached to these Middens, 1054. No. of Pail Closets? 26. No. of Dry Ashpits ( <i>excluding Middens</i> ), Nil No. of Fresh Water Closets, 345. No. of Movable Ashbins for refuse? 116. No. of Waste Water Closets, 0. Conversions: No. of Privy Closets: <table><tr><td></td><td>During Year 1925.</td><td>During 5 Years 1921—1925.</td></tr><tr><td>To Fresh W.C.'s.</td><td>16</td><td>72</td></tr><tr><td>To Waste W.C.'s.</td><td>Nil</td><td>Nil</td></tr><tr><td>To Pails, &amp;c.</td><td>Nil</td><td>Nil</td></tr></table> No. of Pail Closets: To Fresh W.C.'s. Nil Nil To Waste W.C.'s. Nil Nil No. of Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s. Nil Nil No. of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles Nil 17 Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing Privy Middens and Pail Closets? Yes. All defective Privy Middens, the contents of which are emptied on to the streets, are being converted to W.C.'s. Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion? Yes. If so, how much? Half cost Privies; whole cost Pails. What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property? W.C.		During Year 1925.	During 5 Years 1921—1925.	To Fresh W.C.'s.	16	72	To Waste W.C.'s.	Nil	Nil	To Pails, &c.	Nil	Nil
	During Year 1925.	During 5 Years 1921—1925.											
To Fresh W.C.'s.	16	72											
To Waste W.C.'s.	Nil	Nil											
To Pails, &c.	Nil	Nil											



Scavenging— Character and efficiency of the arrangements for Scavenging and Removal and Disposal of House Refuse for whole of District ? How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses) ? Are Motor Vehicles used ? If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night ? How is the Refuse disposed of ? Has a Destructor been provided ?	Pails and Dust bins are collected weekly by Council's own carts and taken to tips, and is efficient.  Sanitary Authority. No.  Emptied by day. Taken to tips and used by farmers as manure No. If so, where ?
Sanitary Inspections during 1925 No of premises visited. Defects or Nuisances. No. of Notices served. Legal proceedings.	71, No. discovered—71. No abated—71. Informal—71. Statutory—Nil. No.—Nil. Result—Nil.
Smoke Nuisance.	Any special action with regard to smoke abatement—Dealt with by Police. No. of observations : — No. of legal proceedings taken and result ?— What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour ?
Offensive trades.	No.—Nil. Character—Nil. Action taken or needed—Nil.
Workshops and Workplaces.	What is their condition—Good.
Common Lodging Houses.	Number—Nil. Are they Registered— What is their condition—
Houses let in Lodgings.	Action taken or needed—Nil.
Schools.	Sanitary condition—Good. Water Supply, &c.—Good.
Canal Boats.	No. Inspected—Nil. No. of Infringe- ments of Acts—

#### 4.—HOUSING.

*NOTE.—The Ministry of Health state it is most important that the " Housing Statistics for the year 1925 " set out on page 8 should be clearly and accurately filled up, and it will be advisable to complete these statistics before the more general observations and conclusions relating to housing (below) are set out.*

*NOTE.—The Ministry also state that in a Report upon a RURAL district separate particulars should generally be given for EACH Parish as regards the general observations and conclusions relating to housing as set out below.*

#### HOUSING : GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

(I.) General housing conditions in the area :—

- (1) General housing conditions—Their is a good deal of overcrowding in district.
- (2) (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses—Would depend on outside districts erecting houses for miners working in their districts.
- (b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage—Owing to the fact that some of the mines may be finished soon, action postponed.



- (3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future—One mine in district has closed a few years ago and the life of another is very uncertain.

(II.) Overcrowding :—

- (1) Extent—Owing to a good many miners having left district overcrowding is somewhat less than previous years.
- (2) Causes—The knowledge that the life of more than one mine will be short gives no encouragement to build houses.
- (3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding—The Council holds that the shortage of work from discontinued mines will soon rectify it.
- (4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken—None.

(III.) Fitness of houses :—

- (1) (a) General standard of housing in the area—Moderate.
- (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses—Defective roofs and spouts dampness, defective privies and yards.
- (c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to act of waste or neglect by tenants—Altogether to owners.
- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under—
  - (a) The Public Health Acts—Notices served to have defects remedied.
  - (b) The Housing Acts—Not necessary.

(NOTE.—The detailed statistics as to action under these Acts during the year 1925 should be given in the Table set out on page 8).

- (3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of Housing Act, 1925—None.

Special measures taken or suggested :—

- (a) Any special action to secure improved management of property by owners—None.
- (b) Better care of property by tenants—None.
- (c) The gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements—carried out by owners.
- (d) Any special method of dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or other types of insanitary property—No back to back houses.
- (4) Conditions so far as they affect housing, as regards :—
  - (a) Water supply—Good.
  - (b) Closet accommodation—Mainly ashpit and privy.
  - (c) Refuse disposal—Good.
  - (d) Measures taken during 1925 as regards (a), (b), and (c)—Notices served for the conversion of privy middens to w.c.'s and for repairs.

(IV.) Unhealthy areas :—

Information as to complaints received or representations made and action taken, in regard to unhealthy areas—None.

(V.) Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c :—

- (1) As to working of existing byelaws—None.
- (2) As to need for new byelaws or revision of existing byelaws—No need.

(VI.) General and Miscellaneous :—

Generally, an account of any action bearing on the public health, not covered by the above particulars, which has been taken during the year by the Local Authority in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts, including any action taken by the Authority to provide information as to the proper use of household fittings (*e.g.*, sinks, water-closets, &c.) and the disposal of household refuse so far as possible by burning—General supervision of household fittings, etc., in district.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))—None.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—

(i.) By the Local Authority.—None.

(ii.) By other bodies or persons.—None.

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme—None.

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation :—

Have any advances been made during 1925.

(a) By Loans?—Nil. No.—Nil. Amount of Loans, £—Nil.

(b) By subsidy?—Nil. No.—Nil. Amount of subsidies, £—Nil.

*Unfit Dwelling-houses*—Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—133

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925—62

(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—None

(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—None.

*Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices*—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action Local Authority or their Officers—31.

*Action under Statutory Powers*—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.—Nil.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners—Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.

(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close—Nil.

B.—\*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—Nil.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners—Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders—Nil.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made—Nil.

(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit—Nil.

(4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—Nil.

(5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—Nil.

D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, &c.—Nil.

\*Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects, Notices with regard to drainage and other defects should be included under Sanitary Inspections on page 5.



## 5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) Milk Supply—Observations on—

- (1) The wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the district—Satisfactory.
- (2) The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character.—Good.
- (3) The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders.—Satisfactory.

#### The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923—

No. of Dealers' licenses issued during 1925 in respect of :	" Certified " Milk, None. " Grade A " Milk, None. " Grade A " (Tuberculin Tested), None.
No. of licenses issued in respect of " Pasteurised " Milk.	Pasteuring Plants, None. Retail Distributors None.
Types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk.	Nil.
Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation.	No,

#### Dairies, Cowsheds, & Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected ?	Yes. What is their condition ? Clean.
Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B. ?	Yes. March 19th, 1912. Are they enforced ? Yes.
Give Date ?	(a) Where cows are habitually grazed ? None specified.
Amount of air space in cubic ft. required for each cow ?	(b) Where cows are <i>not</i> habitually grazed ? —Nil.
Cowkeepers ?	Total No. of Cowkeepers, 6. No. on Register, 6. No. of Inspections during year, 20.
Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers) ?	Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors, 13. No. on Register, 13.
Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows ?	No.
Action taken as to—	None.
(i) Tuberculosis Milk.	None.
(ii) Tuberculous Cattle.	
No. of samples of Milk obtained during 1925 for bacteriological examination.	None.
Results of bacteriological examination.	None,

### (b) Meat.—Observation on—

- (1) Meat inspection (including arrangements for inspection at the time of slaughter and for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 ; disease in meat and arrangements for disposal of Condemned meat.—Carried out regularly, condemned meat destroyed.
- (2) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles.—All satisfactory.
- (3) Has a public slaughterhouse been provided ? No.  
Is it conducted satisfactorily ?

#### Private slaughterhouses :

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
No. registered ..	.. 2	2	2
No. licensed ..	.. 2	2	2

(c) Other foods :—

Action taken in respect of  
places where food is prepared,

Nil.

Bakehouses ?

No. 11. Condition—Good.

Other Premises

Amount of food condemned or  
surrendered during 1925 as  
unfit for human consumption—

State approximately the weight of  
carcases and of parts—

Tuberculous carcasses and  
parts.

Nil.

Diseased, unsound, or un-  
wholesome meat (*other  
than above*)

Nil.

Other foodstuffs.

Nil.

No. of Legal Proceedings and  
result ?

Nil.

Food poisoning ? Action taken  
(if any).

Nil.

Action taken by *Local Autho-  
rity* (if any) in respect of—

(i.) Sale of Food and Drugs  
Acts.

Nil.

(ii.) Condensed Milk  
Regs., 1923.

Nil..

(iii.) Dried Milk Regs.,  
1923.

Nil.

(iv.) Milk & Cream Regs.,  
1912—17.

Nil.



## 6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

NOTE.—The Ministry of Health state the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the period *since* 1920 should be reviewed, and noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection should be recorded—Since 1920 the prevalence of notifiable diseases has tended to decrease and the cases have as a rule been of a milder type than during the preceding ten years.

Diphtheria anti-toxin.—Notes on the supply and prompt use :—Supply always at hand and promptly used.

Is a supply kept *within* the district ? Yes.

If so, where ? M.O.H.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Any special occurrence—No.

Scarlet Fever.—Discovery of “ return ” cases—None.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, and Trench Fever.—Experience in regard to these diseases—None with regard to Malaria, Dysentery and Trench Fever. Pneumonia less prevalent.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations—Arrangements—Sent to M.O.H. to forward for examination.

No. of specimens examined in 1925 :—

Blood—Nil. Sputum—20. Throat Swabs, twelve. Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Nil. Others—Nil.

Action taken in regard to (a) Contracts, (b) Return cases, (c) Carrier cases—None met with in (b) and (c) isolation and observation with regard to contacts.

Has any use been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases ?—No.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—No. of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health :— (a) primary, nil. (b) re-vaccinations, nil.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period (see Table on page 13) :—Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea (under 2 years), Chicken-pox, any others—Observations None notifiable.

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1925 for—

Scarlet Fever, nil. Whooping Cough, nil. Diphtheria, nil. Chicken-pox, nil. Measles, nil. Influenza, nil.

No. of Reports made during 1925 under Section 14 (4) Sanitary Officers Order, 1922\*—None.

\* Section 14 (4) requires copies of these Reports to be forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics—None.

Has any special attention been given to (a) cancer, (b) locally contracted anthrax, and (c) rabies ? No.

Disinfection :—

No. of Houses disinfected during 1925, 17. Method (state disinfectant used), Formalin vapour.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis—Yes. (b) Measles, No.

† Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise), Steam and formaldehyde.

Where is Apparatus situated ? West Lancashire R.D.C. Hospital.

† If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, &c., of Patients *not* removed to the Hospital ? Yes.

Any arrangement for bathing verminous, &c., persons ? No.

In how many instances has disinfection been carried out ? Nil.



## 14—TUBERCULOSIS.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.†

Age Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
				†				The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar-General.			
				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Years.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	...								
1—5	...	...	...								
5—10	...	...	...				1				
10—15	...	...	...				1				
15—20	...	...	...			1	1			1	
20—25	...	...	...								
25—35	...	...	...								
35—45	...	...	...	1		1					
45—55	...	...	...	1	1			1			
55—65	...	...	...	1							
65 and upwards	...	...	...								
Totals	...	...	...	3	1	2	3	1		1	

† All *primary* notifications should be included, and also any other *new* cases of tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year. Figures to agree with totals given in table on page 13.

† What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?—All notified.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—Not required.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations (Articles 3, 5, 6 and 7) relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.—None employed.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, Section 62.

Any action taken under this Section—No.

If so, No. of applications for compulsory removal to hospital—Nil. No. of cases in which Orders were granted—Nil. Observations—All when required willing to go to hospital.

# OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision Un- impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Number Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
None.						

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1925	None.
Chief Sanitary requirements of District.	Keeping houses in a good state of repair and conversion of Privies to W.C.'s.

Signed,

VINCENT O'REILLY,

April 12th, 1926.

*Medical Officer of Health*



# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

FOR THE

## Urban District of Skelmersdale,

On the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,  
in connection with

### FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

#### 1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors  
of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prose- cutions. 4
Factories ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	24	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops .. .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	62	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces .. .. (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total ..	86	Nil.	Nil.

## 2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.  5	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.  5
	Found.  2	Remed- died.  3	Refer'd to H.M. Insp't'r.  4	
<i>Nuisancees under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of Cleanliness .. ..				
Want of Ventilation .. ..				
Overcrowding .. ..		Nil.	Nil.	Nil
Want of Drainage of Floors .. ..				
Other Nuisances .. ..				
Sanitary accommodation :				
Insufficient .. ..				
Unsuitable or Defective .. ..				
Not separate for sexes .. ..				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse .. ..		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Other offences .. ..				
Total ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory  
and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

### Outwork in unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

Nil.

(Signature) VINCENT O'REILLY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*April 12th, 1926.*



